

Sub C1
1. (Amended) A method for providing remote access to a public switched telephone network by offsetting the service cost through charging a set activation fee, comprising:

receiving, at a network element, a telephone number and billing information from a set activation fee pay telephone, the set activation fee pay telephone associated with an originating telephone number;

determining whether the billing information is valid;

if the billing information is valid, then placing a telephone call to the telephone number received from the set activation fee pay telephone;

identifying the telephone call as having the originating telephone number associated with the set activation fee telephone; and

charging the set activation fee for the telephone call.

Sub C2
8. (Amended) In a public switched telephone network, a method for charging a set activation fee to a caller using a pay telephone, comprising:

receiving, at a network element, a telephone number corresponding to a called terminating element;

receiving, at the network element, billing information;

determining whether the billing information is present within a first database;

in the event that the billing information is present in the first database, placing the telephone call;

otherwise, informing the caller that the telephone call may not be placed;

determining whether the telephone number corresponding to the pay telephone is present in a second database; and

in the event the telephone number corresponding to the pay telephone is present in the second database, charging a set activation fee to the caller at the termination of the telephone call.

Sub C3
18. (Amended) A method for charging a set activation fee for a telephone call directed to a called telephone number, comprising:

C3
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generating a false dial tone;
receiving the called telephone number and billing information at a network element;
maintaining the false dial tone;
determining whether the billing information is valid;
if the billing information is valid, then releasing the false dial tone;
seizing a true dial tone;
placing the telephone call to the called telephone number; and
charging the set activation fee for the telephone call.

23. (Amended) A method for calculating a charge for a telephone call directed to a called telephone number, comprising:
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monitoring a telephone place to the called telephone number to determine call parameters for the telephone call;
determining whether the telephone call originated from a telephone having an originating telephone number that corresponds to an entry in a database;
if so, then determining that a set activation fee applies to the telephone call; and
calculating the charge for the telephone call by using the call parameters to calculate a first portion of the charge; and
adding the set activation fee as a second portion of the charge by a network element, so that the set activation fee is independent of the first portion of the charge.